1998-99 and 1999-2000, 17 retail outlets and 30 LPG distributorships were allotted in Andhra Pradesh and 13 retail outlets and 7 LPG distributorships were allotted in Himachal Pradesh.

In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 88 retail outlet dealerships and 124 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996-98 for Andhra Pradesh and 13 retail outlets dealerships and 26 LPG distributorships for Himachal Pradesh. Locations included in the Marketing Plan are advertised by the Oil Companies from time to time. Selection is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit through interview. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships from the date of interview.

ONGC proposal to divest its stake in Mumbai High

4993. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to divest a part of its stake in the Mumbai High oil exploration;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC has submitted a detailed report to Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the extend to which the exploration of gas and oil from Mumbai High oil fields is likely to increase due to divesting a part of its stake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) There is no proposal for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to divest its stakes in Mumbai High field.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LPG Plant in Bellary District of Karnataka

4994. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is LPG plant of Bharat Petroleum or Indian Oil Corporation or Hindustan Corporation in Bellary district;

(b) the total requirement of LPG in Bellary district, per month;

(c) whether Bharat Petroleum has agreed to start some LPG plants in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the places where they propose to start; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to set up an LPG plant in Bellary?